

**SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING  
MINUTES  
MARCH 18, 2005**

**PRESENT:** Tim Gwyther, Deb Dull, Karl Kraync, Norman Johnson, Gary Oliver, Jeri Hamilton, Judy Chambley, Corrina Shelton, Anne Mackiewicz, Richard Root, Harold Lyman, Ira Hatch, Kirk Sitterud, Delynn Fielding, Ken Davey, Don Larson, Dawn Bentley, Tony Dayish, Steve Burge, Pamela Juliano, Nancy Bentley,

Staff: Doug Horsley, Shelly Ivie, Kelly Thornton, Sheryl Nisely, Susan Etzel, Delena Fish, Stephen Jensen, Mary Zorn, Bob Gilbert

Guests: Joann Crittenden, Bob McPherson, Gayle and Kathleen McEachnie

**WELCOME:**

Tim Gwyther, Chair, welcomed the members to the meeting and introduced the new members Toni Dayish, Jeri Hamilton and Corrina Shelton to the Council. Tim thanked both Sheryl Nisely, Chair of the Task Force and Gary Oliver, Youth Council Chair for their excellent leadership as chairpersons.

**APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

Tim Gwyther asked the members for any additions or changes to the previous meeting minutes. There were none, so he asked for a motion to approve the minutes as is.

**MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Don Larson/Steve Burge. To approve the previous meeting minutes as written. Vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.**

**CHAIRMANS REPORT:**

Tim Gwyther reported that the Southeastern Council Plan was updated at the previous minutes and no future changes have occurred. No further information was reported.

**NAWB CONFERENCE:**

Deb Dull, Co-Chairperson, recently attended the National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) Conference in Washington D. C. and presented a brief overview of the conference as follows:

\*Over 2000 individuals attended, six were from Utah.

\*The importance of partnering, economic development, education and workforce services was a hot topic at the conference. There is a need for stronger partnership for the future between these entities. One important topic that seemed to be consistently discussed is

the need for more health care professionals across the entire nation. The problems faced by the entire nation are having enough educators, low or inconsistent wages; and maintaining health care professionals in the rural areas because of lower wages vs better wages in the metropolitan areas. The message passed on is that the nation is going to have aging baby boomers that will need health care soon.

\*In many states the local Economic Development Directors are being housed in the Workforce Service Offices because there is such closeness in their efforts. It has been proven that Workforce Services has the ability to provide labor market statistics in a short amount of time. This is a great advantage for the economic development staff, who are working to show prospective employers what the local labor force is like. There should be a lot of industry focus on health care, and the health care industry needs to be a key player in discussions with education and the workforce.

\*The Workforce Investment Director, two college professors from Duke University and the energy industry all participated in a forum presentation. The professors from Duke University indicated that the bottom line for industry is that you have to move and you have to adapt. There is not second chance. Workforce Services needs to be going to the industry to ask how the industry is doing, what can Workforce Services do differently, and what does the future hold. Workforce Services needs to be present at the economic development meetings every month. Everyone needs to learn to move faster; we cannot study issues to death. Decisions, in many cases, have to be made quicker as time and money will continue to drive industry.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

#### **Target Industry Task Force:**

Chairperson, Sheryl Nisely, updated the Council on the activities of the Task Force. In a previous meeting, it was requested to look at the targeted industry needs for the Southeastern area. The Targeted Industry Task Force has had four meetings discussing the following:

- Review the make up of the Council and industries in demand, what occupations are available and those where there seems to be an unmet need.
- Industries that need to be targeted are the ones with higher wages: health care and energy production (Oil, gas and mining).
- A recent Task Force meeting included state DWS representatives. They verified that the task force is on the right track.
- A workgroup has been created to assist the state in identifying career ladders for the oil, gas and mining targeted industries. Workforce Services does not have the expertise in this area to be able to assist their customers to prepare to climb the career ladders. It is critical for the employment counselors to have this tool. Deb Dull, Tim Gwyther and Steven Burge have accepted this task to identify the career ladder steps.

-The 'Dream Catcher' proposal from CEU-Blanding was presented to the Task Force by: Bob McPherson, CEU President. It will be presented to the full council during this meeting.

-Steven Burge briefed the task force on the proposed Willow Creek Training Center. Commissioner Burge will also brief the Council during this meeting.

-Identified that there is a need to identify and quantify the labor needs of the region. All concerned need to learn to work and communicate with each other: government, private sector, DWS and Economic Development in order to meet the needs of job seekers and businesses.

The question was asked, "Is there an active effort to look towards the building trades, boiler makers, pipe fitters, electricians?" Richard Root indicated that this is something that needs to be reviewed, as there is a need. Richard was asked to provide more information.

**ACTION: Richard Root will provide additional information concerning the building trades, boilermakers, pipe fitters, and electricians training needs at the next council meeting.**

### **DREAM CATCHER PROPOSAL:**

Bob McPherson from the CEU San Juan Campus presented the Dream Catcher proposal, which was included in the packet for review. Judy Chambley indicated that when the state-wide WIA budget is set up for the year, 15% is set aside for extraordinary projects, such as this proposal. Bob presented the following:

\*CEU is currently involved in an expansion project for a new Health and Science Library. This will result in an increase in broadcast capabilities.

\*Bob briefly reviewed the 6 letters of support from the local health care providers.

\*Clinical efforts are located at Monument Valley, Blanding, Navajo Mountain, Ship Rock and Montezuma Creek. This is where the students and instructors must travel to satisfy the students required clinical hours.

\*Last year there were 57 applicants to the CEU San Juan program. The school was only able to accept 25 applicants because there are only 2 instructors. There are also 10 alternates admitted.

\*This proposal is to expand the program and increase the number of instructors.

\*Last year 18 LPN graduated; of those, 16 have completed the NCLEX test and passed it the first time.

\*A total of 162 individuals were enrolled in the CNA program, with 88 completing the course. Sixty-two have already passed the exams.

In the proposal objectives are:

- \*To increase C N A Program
- \*To Increase LPN Program
- \*To Increase the RN Program
- \*To increase instructor staffing

\*This concept of using WIA funding to increase RN and LPN capacity has been utilized along the Wasatch Front.

\*One of the components that CEU wanted to included as they partner with DWS was that there be an agreement, whether it a C N A, LPN or RN, that the student would stay and work at least for a certain amount of time in order to retain more nurses in our local health care facilities. It was pointed out that DWS cannot make that a requirement while utilizing the WIA funding; however, a hospital that is providing tuition payments for a student could require a commitment to remain with the hospital for a set amount of time.

### **QUESTIONS:**

Judy Chambley said that as DWS is being asked to seek 15% available funding with WIA funds, when do does CEU anticipate starting recruitment? Mr. McPherson indicated that when CEU knows that the money is in place, and then they will begin to recruit. He commented that they don't want to get the cart before the horse, and that recruiting a new instructor will take some time.

Tim Gwyther, Chairperson, asked the members to considered a vote in favor of the proposed Dream Catcher Program.

**MOTION: Norman Johnson/Karl Kraync: To approve CEU/San Juan Campus “Dream Catcher Proposal” presented by Mr. Bob McPherson and Target Industries Task Force to request and use the state set aside funds. Vote taken with all in favor, none opposed.**

### **WILLOW CREEK TRAINING CENTER:**

Commissioner Steven Burge presented the update on the Willow Creek Training Center. He indicated that the committee he is involved with that has been working closely with Senator Hatch on this project. Mr. Burge began his presentation by stating “In Carbon County the top ten taxpayers are in the energy field”.

### **Highlights of the proposal were:**

- \*The grant proposal was reviewed discussing Eastern Utah as a whole. The opportunities for energy production in SE Utah are increasing.
- \*The challenge we face is that the demand of workers in the energy production industry can be met through the new Willow Creek Energy Training Center. The intent is to

create a broad based training program with 8-10 courses that could be used to accommodate various industries.

\* The members were given a copy of the flow chart developed for this grant which would provide training for Utilities, Coal Mining, Gas and Oil, Renewable Resources, Surface Mining, Waste Disposal, etc. Involved in this training would be the Tribal Workforce Services, Department of Workforce Service, Dislocated Workers, Vocational Rehabilitation, the College of Eastern Utah, Southeast Applied Technology College – UCAT Advanced Degrees & Certifications, High Schools and Tech Prep.

**CEU/SEATC will be the operator of the training institute. Advantages include:**

\*There will be an instant campus

\*There has been \$225,000 dollars appropriated by the legislature for this grant.

\*The training center program has been/can be presented to the high schools for future schooling.

\*At CEU an associate's degree will be available focusing on energy.

\*There will be many certifications available and intensive trainings provided.

\*The center will be addressing the problem of hiring based on drug, criminal problems, etc.

\*Senator Hatch is on the front line of this program and has been very supportive.

\*The Western Mining Center is considering moving their entire training center to the SE area.

\*The number of high paying jobs could become endless.

\*Pacific Corp would be a major contributor with this training center, as well per Richard Root, their apprentice program.

\*This is the first grant in the Western States of this type.

Tim Gwyther, Chairperson, ask for a motion for approval of the Willow Creek Energy Training Center.

**MOTION: Nancy Bentley/Pam Juliano. The Southeastern Regional Council will support the concept of the Willow Creek Training Center. Vote taken with none opposed, all in favor.**

**SOUTHEAST YOUTH COUNCIL:**

Gary Oliver, Youth Chairperson presented an update for the SE Youth Council.

\*The youth council is in favor of using the existing pathway between WIA and LIC. However, communication is not going flowing properly back and forth. The youth council asked that the EC Managers reemphasize to the WIA representatives the need to work with the LIC'S more closely, and to share information more effectively.

\*The Southeastern Region Youth Plan emphasis is on out-of-school youth. Currently Workforce Services is serving 70% in school and 30% out of school. The council wants to want to reverse this process and concentrate on serving more out of school youth. The

emphasis is also on foster care youth, or where parents have been incarcerated, or youth that are children of homeless parents. There is a greater need now to find these youth.

\*Emery Co just received a grant on a mentoring program -- the only rural county to receive the grant. Corrina Shelton indicated this is a grant for transitioning foster kids into adulthood using mentors to help in teaching life skills, employment and education skills. Corrina said that staff will be working closely with the WIA program and focusing on things the WIA program can do to assist our clients as they work towards their goals. The funding for this grant came from the Department of Human Services.

### **PRESENTATION BY GAYLE MCKEACHNIE, RURAL AFFAIRS COORDINATOR FOR GOV. HUNTSMAN:**

Mr. McKeachnie briefed the members on the following information:

\*Current structural changes have been approved by the legislature:

\*Economic Development is now being directed out of the governor's office under Chris Roybal

\*Legislature has created the public lands coordinating office to better advocate state policy and positions.

\*The energy office has been repealed. The employees have been moved to the agencies that were actually their customers. The governor wants to have an energy advisor in the governors' office to help set policy for the state. This will allow focus on production and present a more business friendly approach.

Gayle then talked about upcoming activities:

\*Tax Reform has been proposed with two purposed in mind. These are

1. To Finance the government
2. Make Utah more business friendly.

\*The package that was put together by the Walker Administration concerning the task reform has been presented to the legislature for review.

\*Regulatory Reform so that the State of Utah can be a more business friendly place and simplified.

\*The governor's rural partnership board will attract and evaluate ideas, and make an agenda for the governor and the legislature for what needs to happen in Rural Utah. The proposal is to have the state bring groups. such as the regional councils, called clustering to figure out what our best assets are, what our needs are and address these on a cluster basis. The governor's office and USU is gearing up to go to each area (USU because they have an education presence in every county and have contacts which allows meetings without a lot of travel) to get various entities to come together and look at what the plan is for each region.

\*Education plays a big part in growth in the economy, and represents the infrastructure of the future. Our education providers need to become more market driven.

### **REGIONAL DIRECTORS REPORT:**

Judy Chambley thanked Gayle McKeachnie for joining us at the meeting and speaking.

\*Judy introduced Bob Gilbert as the new Southeastern Regional Council Coordinator. She indicated that Lorna O'berto was the SE Regional Council Coordinator for the last 8 years and as well as the PIC (Private Industry Council) director before that. Lorna O'berto will be retiring on May 13, 2004, in the Price Employment Center and is currently making the transition towards retirement.

\*Bob Gilbert has taken the reins and the current council roster is filled, with only one vacancy.

\*Judy reviewed the Job Orders currently in Eastern Region. Each area is different and the managers are very much connected with the economic development, challenges and needs in each of their areas.

The food stamp rolls are going up as Workforce Services has been doing a lot of advertising at the food pantries to get those individual in need of assistance to come in and apply. Only 51% of the eligible population actually participates in the food stamp program.

#### **STATE COUNCIL COORDINATOR MIKE RICHARDSON PRESENTATION:**

Mike Richardson has recently taken over the position as the state council coordinator.

\*His new responsibilities are the results of the combination of four previous directorships: Strategic planning, Intergovernmental Affairs dealing with the Utah Legislature, Customer Service, and Constituent Services.

\*The state council coordinator is the staff to the Workforce Services State Council. The intent is to get more direction from the Utah community and make more usage of job seekers and employers.

#### **EMPLOYMENT CENTER UPDATES:**

Each of the Employment Center Managers had previously submitted their current updates for each of the Employment Centers, which was included in the packets to the members. Tim Gwyther asked the managers for updates since that publication:

\*Delena Fish, Emery County Employment Center, indicated that there is a huge need for truck drivers to haul coal and the trucking companies are willing to take individuals that are trained but do not have prior experience.

\*Stephen Jensen, Blanding Employment Center – Navasew, an apparel business located in Montezuma Creek who makes military uniforms, are ready to hire 80 employees. Over \$900,000 will be put into the economy this year from this company and \$1.6 million next year. They have indicated that they are willing to train individuals and are

willing to offer OJT's and Internships if the client qualifies. The starting pay for the jobs is \$6.75 and can go higher depending on how many pieces a seamstress can prepare. One individual is currently making over \$14.00 because of her expertise and speed.

**MISC:**

Harold Lyman mentioned that the Governors conference is being held on May 13 & 14<sup>th</sup> on tourism in Cedar City.

Delena Fish also reminded the members that there will be a Rural Business Conference on May 3 and 4<sup>th</sup> in Price

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

**NEXT MEETING WILL BE JUNE 10<sup>TH</sup> IN MOAB.**